VICTORY FLASHES

May 12, 1944
Number 35

Greetings and Salutations:

If any of you fellows are keeping track of the arrival of these letters by the numbers at the top, don't think you have missed one. The fact that we appear to have jumped from No. 33 to No 35 is due simply to the fact that I must have been half asleep when I wrote to you two weeks ago. That letter, to the best of my knowledge, should have been No 34 and this one really is No 35.

I'll be honest with you at the very beginning: This letter is a partnership affair written with the help of my girl Friday. I'm writing part of it a few days ahead of the date above and then, while I'm away from the office for a few days on some College matters, she will finish it. She'll even forge my name at the end of it. We decided to do that rather than break our rule about writing to you on time. It's also a good way for me to duck any typographical errors that your eagle eyes may detect. Blame them on Elsie and I'll take the blame from her.

You'll be glad to know that to date the baseball team is doing as well as the basketball team, even though F. and M. managed to break the winning streak. We won the first five games and lost the sixth. We defeated Lehigh 10 to 4 and 10 to 3, Ursinus 7 to 4, Lafayette 23 to 3 (that's correct), Bloomsburg State Teachers 9 to 6 and then lost to Franklin and Marshall 13 to 9. Tomorrow we play Villanova at Villanova; May 17, Bloomsburg State Teachers in Allentown; May 20, Swarthmore in Allentown; May 24, Ursinus in Allentown; and Penn State in Allentown on May 27. If you're in town, drop around for a game. If you can't, keep on cheering anyway.

The track team hasn't been quite so successful, although it has wins over City College of New York and Swarthmore to its credit. Last week-end a combined Muhlenberg-Swarthmore team bowed to Penn on Franklin Field by the score of 67 to 59. In the Penn Relays we took a second place in Friday's Middle Atlantics Championship run and a fifth place in the mile relay the following day. This week-end some 20 colleges will participate in the Middle Atlantics on the Muhlenberg track.

The tennis team came through in its first game, defeating Lehigh 7 to 2, then lost to Swarthmore 7 to 2, and to the University of Pennsylvania 9 to 0. So much for sports.

Meanwhile, on the academic front your College took another step forward with the establishment of a new system for counseling students, civilian as well as military. Under the plan, each faculty member has approximately 15 students who may consider him their confidential advisor on academic work, activities, or personal matters. The new program supplements the advisory system on schedules and curriculum planning for the pre-professional students.

Other than that there has been very little new on the campus during the past two weeks. The Mask and Dagger club is getting set to present

"Volpone" on May 25 and 26; the fraternities are completing plans for the Inter-fraternity Ball on May 20, and the student body is making a valiant attempt to ward-off a serious epidemic of spring fever. The Navy--you probably know all about it--has methods of its own for achieving that end. It's still a bit early to be thinking about examinations and graduation, because this year the graduation ceremonies are being delayed until the last week-end in June. There'll be more on that score later.

I believe I forgot to tell you that Haps Benfer's faithful girl Friday--Kaye Hartman to you younger fellows--closed her desk and joined the SPARS. Any of you down in Florida may be interested in looking her up at the Coast Guard Training Station, Women's Reserve in Palm Beach, Florida.

We'll have to add another gold star to our service flag. Word has just come that Lieutenant William Findlay was killed in action on a flight over the European Theatre. Findlay, who entered Muhlenberg in the fall of 1938 and spent one term on the campus, was a bombardier on a flying fortress. That's the ninth gold star on the flag.

According to our records we now have 1,101 men in service, more than one quarter of the total alumni roster.

If you fellows over in Italy want any little favor, look up Lieutenant Dan Petruzzi '40, described in a recent Associated Press story as the virtual king of the Anzio Beachhead. We haven't heard from Petruzzi, but according to the ALWAYS reliable Associated Press (plug) he and the AMG are responsible for 600 Italians, including 200 children, 13,000 sheep, 200 head of cattle, and 500 horses and everything that still lives in the vicinity of that no man's land. We'll tell you more about it in the Alumni Magazine which will go to press the end of this month.

Thanks again for your swell contributions to the Alumni Loyalty Fund. All of us here on the campus appreciate your generosity and the spirit that is prompting your gifts more than we'll be able to tell you. Thanks, too, for your letters. They help us do the job we're trying to do to keep you men in touch with each other.

Here are some of the things we've picked out of the mail bag during the past few days:

Captain Fred R. Bausch '31 sends greetings from Italy and reports a good trip across. He was formerly stationed at Camp Campbell, Ky. Captain Carl Proehl '39 has only one complaint to make about the Southwest Pacific: Liberty days have been boiled down to about a half a day a week making it necessary for him to sadly neglect his golf. He misses his Dorothy. She's Mrs. Proehl, you know.

Lieutenant (j.g.) Wilmer Cressman '42, one of our most faithful correspondents, reports the kind of cruise he is on would run into piles of money in peacetime. Most stops, he says, have rather well-stocked officers' clubs and life is never too dull. As a matter of fact, one club produced genuine imported from Scotland Scotch. He is kind enough to pity you fellows drinking warm beer in England. Another letter from that general area, brings the word that Lieutenant Robert E. Albee '42 was in the Cape Gloucester excitement. He's boasting about an electric washing machine to help do his laundry.

Lieutenant Charles Trinkle '42 wrote to us after a swim at Waikiki Beach and some shopping in Honolulu. He has been down there for seven months and has gained a world of experience. But in spite of the fact that he is a censorship officer, he is unable to talk about them for the present. Major Richard N. Thompson '41 extension, is brushing up on his English history and literature and saw the shades of Old Sam Johnson when he ate at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese.

Lieutenant Eugene G. Schneck '36 has been in India for some time and has gathered from the natives that almost anyone in possession of

more than one shirt and one pair of pants, who wears shoes and socks and who has a few more rupees than a native, automatically becomes a Rajah. We salute all you Rajahs in India. You can park your turbans on the mantle when you come home.

Africa is gradually returning to peace-time status, according to Lieutenant (j.g.) Chuck Keim '42. He reports Denny Beattie is looking fine and is about ready to go hunting. Staff Sergeant Charlie Stopp '30 has been in England for the last year and maintains that he is very fortunate. He says he has escaped all bombs even though an incendiary hit the bus in which he was riding while in London some time ago. Part of the bus was burned, but that was his closest call.

Here's the first word we've had from Bruce Bauman '42, who has been in action down in the Southwest Pacific for the last two years. He's serving fair warning on Punk Sexton '42 and Bill Van Ness '42 that either they write to him or else when he gets home, he'll date their wives. He's sure that this will get them writing in haste, because Bauman can't imagine how "any two girls, one married to a doggie and the other to a swab-jockey, could resist a battle-scarred gyrene." He and Bob Albee '42 and Warren Mack '42 run into each other frequently. He ran into Mack some time ago while a hospital patient. Mack was the fellow who came in with a needle to make a blood test. Bauman warns all of you to stay away from Mack when he has any sharp instrument in his hand and he says that he is sure that even though Mack is technically a non-combatant, he has seen more blood in a week than Bauman saw all through the Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester campaigns.

Walter P. Conrad '30 is another of the boys really enjoying himself in England. He's billeted in a private home and eats with a family with whom he is quartered. For the first time in his Army career, he reports he is completely satisfied. Captain George S. Boyer '37 says these letters have kept him in touch with Muhlenberg and his classmates through Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and now England. He does the bragging for us when he says he has found no other college that keeps in as close touch with its overseas alumni as Muhlenberg. Thanks, George.

Harry Becker '43, still in India, has had letters recently from Milo Sewards, Pete Schneider, George Sweda, Pete Gorgone, Jake Jakobowski, Clark Diefenderfer and Charlie Trinkle. "It sure is swell," he says, "to hear from them and to know that they, like myself, still treasure those precious days at Muhlenberg and are looking forward to our reunion after this mess is over."

And now we come back to the States for a few more letters. Corporal Claude Kershner '45 wants it definitely known that he is representing Muhlenberg in Wyoming and is stationed at the Army Air Field in Casper. Corporal Warren A. Flower '32 has been assigned to the Fort Monmouth Publications Agency doing a job on some technical manuals. Lieutenant Kenneth P. Lambert '39 is enjoying himself in Santa Barbara, California and is certain that the Army could not have sent him to a more interesting and more beautiful spot.

Apprentice Seaman Clarence Troxell '46, now at Yale, says that he and his roommates wish they were still at Muhlenberg, for more than one reason. His roommates are: Gene Hohenstein, Frank Morgan, and Vernon Wilson, all of whom were in the first V-12 unit assigned to the campus. It's news to me, but he says my secretary knows what that other reason may be.

Earl W. Feight '46, now at Camp Maxey, Texas, was married to the former Eunice R. Keim of Pottstown. Last night a very charming little girl called (on the telephone) to say that she and Lieutenant (j.g.) Sherwood Cota '42 were married in Bethlehem on January 25th. She is the former Eugenia Viger of Bethlehem. Sherwood is now on the high seas.

Aviation Cadet Claude E. Dierolf '43, now at Coral Gables, Fla., recently completed his course in gunnery and found it a little more rugged than he had expected. He has begun his navigation classes and says that if he can't keep up with his correspondence you fellows will know the reason and can forgive him. Robert Krimmel '44 is stationed in Asheville, N.C. where he is taking a radio course for weathermen. His brother, Ensign Blair Krimmel '43 is in New Guinea.

Here are the promotions we've heard about recently: CORPORAL Russell E. Krik '45, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Sherwood Cota '42, LIEUTENANT Karl M. Meyers '39, CORPORAL Gene McLain '42, ENSIGN LeRoy G. Ziegenfuss '43, and ENSIGN Robert Haldeman '44.

Our service roster is still growing. Here are the names that have been added during the past two weeks.

Sgt. Walter W. Stolz '43, 13113943, APO 322, c/o P.M., San Francisco.
Pvt. Ray F. Wahl, '34, USA, Camp Reynolds, Pa.
Sgt. Harold F. Ricker '43, 33111706, APO 88, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Lt. Thomas H. Weaber, U.S. Vet. Hosp., Palo Alto, Calif.
Ensign Henry A. Lubsen, West Coast Sound Sch., San Diego 47, Calif.
Lt. Philip M. Blum, 02036420, APO 928, c/o P.M., San Francisco, Cal.
Pfc. James Cozzarelli '42, 1619 S. 27th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Pvt. Richard N. Lehrfeld, 13177419, 100 Ridgewood Rd., Ithaca, N.Y.
Pvt. Ray C. Held '34, Address Wanted
Ensign Harrison M. Smith, 22043, Class 25, Ft. Schuyler, Bronx 61,N.Y.
Pvt. Ivan E. Handwerk, 2135 AAF Base Units, Tyndall Fld., Panama City.

Some of the new APO addresses received since we wrote you the last time are listed below. If you want any complete addresses, drop us a line and they'll be dispatched with all possible haste.

Capt. George S. Boyer '37, APO 133, P.M., New York, N.Y.
Pvt. Walter P. Conrad '30, APO 555, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Pvt. Albert Greenberg '33, APO 706, c/o P.M., San Francisco, Calif.
Pfc. Bruce N. Bauman '42, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
S/Sgt. Charles J. Stopp '30, APO 558, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Lt. (j.g.) Charles E. Keim '42, c/o Fl. P.O., New York, N.Y.
Ensign Jack Clifford '43, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
S/Sgt. Robert Kroll '44, APO 163, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Cpl. Russell E. Krik '45 APO 149, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Capt. Fred Bausch '31, APO 9789, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Major Richard N. Thompson '41, APO 595, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Lt. Robert E. Albee '42, USMCR, c/o Fl.P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Lt. James A. Kilpatrick '33, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Lt. Hugh Brown '42, 01320917, APO 15227, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Lt. Maurice Horn, 0545302, APO 5245, c/o P.M., San Francisco, Calif.
Lt. Edward Farrell 01167828, APO 716, c/o P.M., San Francisco, Calif.
Lt. George E. Legg '37, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.

The boss is away and the mice would have a good chance to play. But I'll finish this letter without playing any tricks on him, much as I'd like to get even. Unless I miss my guess, he'll be back from his meetings in Chicago with so many ideas that I'll never be able to get my fingers off the typewriter. That and the fact that Margaret has the envelopes ready are as good reasons as any for saying THE BEST OF LUCK TO YOU and getting this letter into the mail.

Sincerely,

"Friday" for

Gordon